

Message Text

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17-12
ACTION PA-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 EB-11 SCI-06 COME-00 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2279
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, SCUL, BCOM, BIE, NL
SUBJ: SPOKANE EXPO '74

REF: A) HAGUE 4761 (NOTAL); B) HAGUE 4683; C) HAGUE 4658

SUMMARY: EMBOFF CALLED ON HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE AT HEALTH MINISTRY (DE GEER) OCT 31 TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS ON EXPO FRONT AND TO EXPLORE FURTHER WHAT POSSIBILITIES YET REMAIN FOR DUTCH PARTICIPATION. WHILE DE GEER PERSONALLY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO DUTCH PRESENCE AT EXPO, HE INDICATED LIKELIHOOD OF POSITIVE DUTCH DECISION ALMOST NIL, BUT OFFERED TO PURSUE QUESTION FURTHER WITHIN HEALTH MINISTRY AND WITH BELGIAN COLLEAGUES. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARA 6

1. EMOFF SPENT BETTER PART OF AN HOUR OCT 31 WITH DE GEER, HEAD OF HEALTH MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECTION, TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT TO EXPO AND TO EXAMINE WHAT POSSIBILITIES REMAIN OPEN FOR DUTCH PARTICIPATION. SUBSTANCE OF PARA 5 OF STATE 210136 SERVED AS FRAMEWORK FOR REVIEW. SUBSTANCE OF PARIS 27644 ALSO PASSED ON.

2. DE GEER INDICATED HAVING BEEN SURPRISED AT NEWS, SEVERAL DAYS AGO, OF FRENCH DECISION TO PARTICIPATE, RECALLING THAT IT
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HAD BEEN FRENCH INTRASIGENCE THAT HAD SCUTTLED IDEA OF EC

EXHIBIT. HE ALSO REVIEWED PRESENT POSITION OF DUTCH GOVERNMENT (SEE HAGUE REFS) AND INDICATED PESSIMISH RE LIKELIHOOD OF POSITIVE DUTCH DECISION, GIVEN DUTCH BUDGETARY PROBLEMS AND SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE OPENING OF EXPO.

3. EMBOFF RAISED QUESTION OF POSSIBILITY OF BENELUX EXHIBIT AND DE GEER AGREED TO CONTACT BELGIAN COLLEAGUES TO ASCERTAIN LEVEL OF POSSIBLE BELGIAN INTEREST IN SUCH EXHIBIT. IN THAT CONNECTION, DE GEER QUERIED WHETHER BIE GROUND RULES WOULD REQUIRE JOINT EXHIBITORS (E.G., BENELUX TO OBTAIN EXHIBIT SPACE LARGER THAN MINIMUM REQUIRED FOR INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITORS (4000 SQ FT). EMBOFF AGREED TO CHECK ON THIS POINT AND ADVISE DE GEER.

4. DE GEER ALSO QUERIED WHETHER DUTCH INDUSTRY HAD EXPRESSED ANY INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING (HE RECALLED SUBJECT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY MR. HENDERSON DURING HIS CALL TO HEALTH MINISTRY ON JULY 30)., TO WHICH EMBOFF REPLIED IN NEGATIVE. DE GEER AGREED TO SERVE AS BROKER BETWEEN EMBASSY AND DUTCH INDUSTRY SHOULD THAT BE USEFUL TO EMBASSY. EMBOFF ASSURED DE GEER THAT WHILE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITORS WOULD BE WELCOME, NATIONAL PARTICIPATION WAS NOW OUR KEY CONCERN. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DE GEER'S OFFER OF ASSISTANCE IN CONTACTING POTENTIAL INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITORS UNLESS EXPO OFFICIALS RECOMMEND OTHERWISE.

5. ON QUESTION OF FINANCERS FOR POSSIBLE DUTCH EXHIBIT, SHOULD ONE MATERIALIZE, DE DE GEER ADVISED THAT NO PROVISIONS WERE MADE IN BUDGET RECENTLY PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT IN VIEW OF EARLIER EXPECTATION THAT DUTCH PARTICIPATION COULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH EEC, WITH LATTER DEFRAYING COSTS FROM COMMON FUNDS. IF DUTCH WERE NOW TO DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE, ADDITIONAL FUNDS WOULD HAVE TO BE REQUESTED IN BUDGET OR ECONOMIES WOULD HAVE TO BE EFFECTED IN EXISTING PROGRAMS TO RELEASE NECESSARY FUNDS, A DIFFICULT TASK AT BEST.

6 ACTION REQUESTED. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP WHETHER JOINT EXHIBIT BY BENELUX COUNTRIES WOULD REQUIRE, UNDER BIE RULES, EXHIBIT SPACE GREATER THAN MINIMUM OF 4000 SQ. FT. REQUIRED FOR SEPARATE NATIONAL EXHIBITORS. ALSO PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER ADDITIONAL INDUSTRIAL PARTICIPANTS STILL BEING SOUGHT.
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